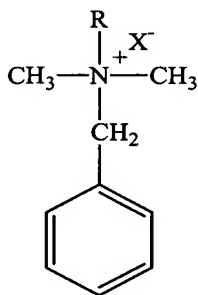


Amendments to the Claims:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hyaluronic acid complex suitable for incorporation with tissue scaffolds comprising a hydrophobic polymer and that are suitable for use in repair and/or regeneration of musculoskeletal tissue, said hyaluronic acid complex comprising a complex of a monovalent alkali metal salt of hyaluronic acid and a tetra alkyl ammonium halide, represented by the formula:



where R is C₈H₁₇ to C₁₈H₃₇ and X is Cl or Br,

wherein said hyaluronic acid complex is substantially insoluble in water at room temperature, yet soluble in mixtures of organic and aqueous solvents in which said hydrophobic polymer is soluble.

Claim 2 (original): The hyaluronic acid complex of claim 1 wherein said monovalent alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium hyaluronate and potassium hyaluronate.

Claim 3 (canceled)

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid complex of ~~claim 3~~ claim 2 wherein the molar ratio of sodium hyaluronate to tetra alkyl ammonium halide is between about 10:1 and about 1:10.

Claim 5 (original): The hyaluronic acid complex of claim 4 wherein said tetra alkyl ammonium halide is selected from the group consisting of tetrabutylammonium bromide, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, benzalconium chloride, stearyltrimethylammonium chloride, 3-(benzyltrimethylammonio)propanesulfonate, benzyltrimethyldecylammonium chloride, benzyltrimethyldodecylammonium bromide, benzyltrimethyldodecylammonium chloride, benzyltrimethylhexadecylammonium chloride, benzyltrimethyl(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium chloride, benzyltrimethyltetradecylammonium chloride and benzethonium chloride.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The hyaluronic acid complex of ~~claim 1~~ claim 5 comprising sodium hyaluronate and benzalconium chloride in a molar ratio of from about 10:1 to 1:10.

Claim 7 (original): The hyaluronic acid complex of claim 1 wherein said complex is soluble in a mixture of from about 50 to about 60 weight percent 1,4-dioxane with from about 50 to about 40 weight percent water.